



Public Health Emergency Preparedness Report Menasha Health Department H1N1 Response

Since 2001, the Menasha Health Department has received Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funding to prepare for public health emergencies. In 2009, the health department also received Public Health Emergency Response funding to respond to the Novel Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic.

2009 was a year in which public health emergency preparedness initiatives were tested through real-life response. Local response activities were in the following categories: disease surveillance and containment; public information; and vaccine management and distribution.

Disease Surveillance and Containment

Primary activities included:

- 1) Participating in weekly webcasts hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to receive current situation reports and recommendations for response.
- 2) Monitoring and reporting the incidence of H1N1 infections in the city.
- 3) Conveying laboratory testing guidelines to clinicians.
- 4) Offering guidance and appropriate infection control measures and personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks.
- 5) Insuring isolation and quarantine orders as needed to limit spread by infected individuals.
- 6) Monitoring Menasha Schools' absences on a daily basis.
- 7) Providing consultation on closures to schools, and others as requested.
- 8) Maintaining a back up supply of antiviral medications for use by physicians and pharmacists in the event of short supply.
- 9) Entering data on cases of H1N1 infections into the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System.

Public Information

Public health has a responsibility to promptly and accurately share information with the public so that adequate measures can be taken to protect their health. Various messages were delivered through email, memos to families of pre-school and school age children, newsletters, city website, and the media (newspaper, radio, television). Message content included: nature of the H1N1 virus and outbreak; infection control messages (handwashing, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when ill, and get vaccinated); symptoms of H1N1

infection, when to seek medical care, and isolation of sick individuals at home; vaccination clinics being offered and eligible target groups to be vaccinated.

Vaccine Management and Distribution

Vaccine was distributed according to guidelines established by federal and state health officials to meet defined target populations considered to be at highest risk for contracting H1N1 infection. Multiple clinics were held at the Menasha Health Department, Menasha Schools, Menasha Senior Center, and various Menasha industries. As of 3-17-2010, 4005 doses of H1N1 vaccine were given by Menasha Health Department nurses and volunteer licensed medical providers. A total of 58 volunteers (includes the licensed medical providers) assisted with the clinic duties providing 418 volunteer hours. All H1N1 vaccine doses were entered into the Wisconsin Immunization Registry.